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On the occasion of the recent visit to Moscow of Johann Koplenig and Friedl Fuernberg, high-ranking Soviet officials expressed to them the dissatisfaction which is becoming evident in Moscow with the KPOe and its leadership. The Soviets feel that the trouble lies mainly in the fact that all the ranking members of the KPOe Central Committee, with the exception of Koplenig, are intellectuals, and they allegedly ordered that more workers be given responsible positions in the KPOe. The poor showing of the KPOe in the Austrian elections last fall was blamed directly on KPOe leaders by the Soviets.

2. The Austro-Soviet Society also came in for its share of criticism. The Soviets feel that it has been completely unsuccessful in its mission and they have accordingly decreased their contribution toward its support from 2,000,000 schillings annually, from 1945 to 1949, to 500,000 schillings. The head of the Society, Ruth Fischer, the wife of Ernst Fischer, will be replaced by Dr. Otto Langbein, editor-in-chief of the monthly Communist publication Weg und Ziel.

Comment: In an unevaluated report, [REDACTED] has reported that a scandal within the Austro-Soviet Society, which the Society has attempted to hush up, may lead to the exclusion of Viktor Hovorka and Ruth Fischer. Hovorka is said to have taken incriminating photographs of a Viennese business woman, with which he then tried to blackmail her. (Viktor Hovorka is probably a slip for Nikolaus von Hovorka, secretary of the Society.) Ruth Fischer allegedly offered to exchange money for her friends at the 1:1 rate. Although she did manage to exchange 250,000 schillings at this rate, she told the people whose money she used that she had only been able to obtain an exchange of 2:3, thereby making 80,000 schillings for herself on the deal.

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CONCLUSION